

AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendments:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Ser. Nos. 09/788,293 (filed Feb. 16, 2001) now U.S. Patent No. 6,607,678, 09/ 930,040 (filed Aug. 14, 2001) now U.S. Patent No. 6,734,137 which is a divisional of 09/375,615, filed Aug. 17, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,284,217, 09/640,903 (filed Aug. 16, 2000) now U.S. Patent No. 6,680,044, and 09/375,614 (filed Aug. 17, 1999) now U.S. Patent No. 6,488,838, all of which are incorporated herein as if reproduced in full below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The catalyst may take any conventional form such as a powder or pellet. In some preferred configurations, the catalyst includes an underlying large pore support. Examples of preferred large pore supports include commercially available metal foams and, more preferably, metal felts. Prior to depositing the alumina (if present), spinel and surface-exposed catalyst, the large pore support has a porosity of at least 5%, more preferably 30 to 99%, and still more preferably 70 to 98%. Preferably, the support has a volumetric average pore size, as measured by BET, of 0.1 μm or greater, more preferably between 1 and 500 μm . Preferred forms of porous supports are foams and felts and these are preferably made of a thermally stable and conductive material, preferably a metal such as stainless steel or FeCrAlY alloy. These porous supports are preferably thin, such as

between 0.1 and 1 mm. Foams are continuous structures with continuous walls defining pores throughout the structure. Felts are fibers with interstitial spaces between fibers and includes tangled strands like steel wool. Felts are conventionally defined as being made of nonwoven fibers. Various supports and support configurations are described in U.S. Patent Applications Ser. No. 09/640,903 (filed Aug. 16, 2000), U.S. Patent No. 6,680,044 which is incorporated by reference.